

Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch
3rd Quarter Report; EPA Region IXA
April - June 2017
July 21, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Attended Out of State Travel by Staff:

- April 3 – 7, 2017; 2017 EPA National Pesticide Laboratory Analyst Workshop; St. Paul, Minnesota CA. (J. Chen - Chemist)
- April 4 – 6, 2017; PREP: Pesticide Applicator Certification Course; Baltimore, Maryland (S. Russo – Acting Registration/Education section supervisor)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Personnel:

While there has been an attrition of staff, request to fill positions are ongoing with our personnel department.

- Ms. T. Toyama, office secretary retired.
- D. Shigematsu, EHS III education/licensing staff retired.
- Ms. M. Horiuchi, 89 day hire Case Development section resigned.
- Mr. S. Russo, EHS III, Acting Registration/Education section supervisor resigned.
- B. Wold, EHS II Oahu enforcement inspector resigned.
- Mr. J. Dang EHS II, was hired as an enforcement inspector on Oahu.
- Ms. E. Medrano, 89 day hire assisting with clerical office functions.

Semi Annual Workshop:

During May 11 and 12th, the HDOA pesticide branch held its semi-annual workshop for staff members.

- Topics of training:
 - Legislative Bill updates
 - New changes to the WPS
 - Enforcement sampling overview
 - Pesticides for Marijuana grown in Hawaii
 - Proposed changes to the Certification and Training requirements
 - Program updates from various sections; education, registration, enforcement and CAL.

Consulting Services.

Meetings continued between Data House Consulting, Inc. and the Pesticides branch staff.

- The Education Section dynamic portal is complete and in use by applicators to sign up for certification exams and check accumulated recertification credits.
- The Enforcement mobile and back office sections are being testing in the field by inspectors.
- The case development portion is built and training is complete.
- The RUP sales reporting portal is complete. Dealers can easily input RUP sales as needed and will provide a central database that staff can use and easily access for pertinent information.
- The Registration portal has been completed.
- As of June 30, 2017, Data House Consulting has officially completed its work with the Pesticides Branch. A service maintenance support contract for the next 12 months has been proposed by Data House.

US Geological Service (USGS) Grant.

The HDOA provided \$500,000 to the USGS to conduct water sampling for pesticide detection in areas not previously sampled in the 2013-2014 DOH/HDOA pesticide sampling pilot project. USGS staff provided updates on sites where water sampling devices were deployed on Kauai and Oahu and where future sites for additional deployment are under consideration.

Lehua Island Rodenticide Eradication Project.

Three aerial applications of an a.i. diphacinone pelletized bait are being scheduled in August 2017 on Lehua Island. HDOA staff C. Westergard and EPA Region 9 staff C. Chen are scheduled to monitor one of the three aerial applications. HDOA will provide the aerial application permit. Other logistics are taking place with different federal and state agencies.

Development of Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3)

No amount of time spent on the development of the MP3 as other work demands are taking precedence.

Registration/Licensing:

Licensing:

A total of 175 licenses were processed during this quarter with fees collected totaling \$27,390. New licensed products were for 169 general use and 6 federal restricted use.

Special Local Need (SLN) registrations: None issued this quarter.

SLNs are active this quarter – 20.

SLNs expiring his period:

- HI-120002. Tilt - Fungicide – Field Corn; seed production.

Emergency Exemption: None issued or active this quarter.

State Experimental Use Permits (EUP): None issued this quarter.

EUP applications pending:

TMP – 16003 – Zoecon Altosid for use to control little fire ant near waterways. Working on SLN.

TMP – 16004 – CFT Legumine Fish Toxicant for use to control tilapia in anchialine ponds. Under discussion.

Groundwater Reviews/New Actives status: None conducted this quarter.

Endangered Species Review Requests (Section 7): None requested.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL):

- A total no. of 676 tests were run for 22 samples pertaining to 4 enforcement cases on Oahu and were finished by utilizing both GC/MS and LC/MS equipment.
- Three cases were related to agriculture farm investigations and the fourth case involved a residential odor complaint.
- A total of 72 tests were run for 5 samples pertaining to 1 batch EPA check samples. Samples were finished by the LC/MS equipment.

- A total of 375 tests were run for 56 samples pertaining to 10 enforcement cases. Tests were finished by both GC/MS and LC/MS equipment.

Education/Certification:

Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:

- A total of 23 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred forty one (141) examinees were tested in private applicator or commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinees, 77 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 20 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- 44 certified applicators collectively earned 191 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- 50 CET training classes were held and attended by approximately 939 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 1113 recertification credits.
- Discussions continue with the University of Hawaii - College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service to have county extension agents conduct annual federal WPS training with farmers.

Consultative visits: No information to report.

Enforcement Highlights.

Oahu: Seven complaints were reported during this quarter of which two were odor related.

- Complainant reported a Malathion like odor in their residential area. Inspectors were unable to determine the source of odor. However inspectors noted nearby was a new dwelling being constructed that emanated new lumber odors downwind.
- Complainant reported an odor drifting from a neighbor basil farm into his residence. An Ag use investigation was conducted with the farmer. There were suspected violations of the Worker Protection Standard i.e., no training provided to workers. Swab sampled taken from complainant home were negative for the a.i. pyrethrin.
- The DOH Food and Drug reported the detection of the a.i. dimethoate on Japanese cucumbers. Inspector's collected plant samples from the named farm. Lab results indicated no detection of dimethoate in plant samples.
- Another referral from DOH Food and Drug reported that the a.i. methomyl was detected on long beans that exceed residue levels. A follow up investigation with the applicator indicated suspected violations of 1) an overdose of methomyl to long beans during spray application and 2) the method of application using a hand-held equipment is not permitted.
- Complainant reported damage to her plants due to Vikane fumigation work on neighbor's residence. There was inconclusive evidence to show that the a.i. sulfuryl fluoride cause damage to her affected plants.
- Complainant reported feeling ill after hiking in a forested area with her dog on land owned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. While she noticed a vehicle nearby, she did not see any

spraying activity taking place. Her husband who was not on the hike told her to call the pesticides branch and report an exposure to glyphosate. This investigation is ongoing.

- A commercial sky diving company reported that the state Department of Transportation made an herbicide application to their property without their permission. Plant samples were taken and are pending analysis. Delineating boundary lines have yet to be determined. This investigation is ongoing.

Maui/Molokai: Four pesticide related complaints were reported during this period.

- Complainant living in a condominium complex believed that pesticides drifted into their unit from a pest control company doing insecticide soil injection to landscape plants. Environmental samples are pending analysis. There is a suspected violation of using an agricultural insecticide in a non-agriculture setting.
- A pest control company filed a complaint against another pest control company regarding a structural tent fumigation job. The complainant believed that two of four fumigation warning signs on the tarps were either obstructed by vegetation or bent down by the prevailing wind. There were suspected violations of the date not being posted on a fumigation warning sign at one of the entrances and the complete date not being posted on all of the fumigation warning signs.
- A Raw Agricultural Commodity (RAC) sampling by the State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health indicated illegal residues of pesticides on taro leaf crop. An investigation was conducted with the farmer. There are suspected violations of off target drift from an application made to tomato crops and the worker protection standard.
- An in-house referral was received regarding an aerial application of a.i. Imazapyr on property owned by the State of Hawaii, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Natural Area Reserves System and a contracted private helicopter applicator. No label violations noted with the aerial application. However there was a suspected violation of reuse of a chlorine container to mix/load the herbicide product.

Hawaii Island: Five complaints reported during this quarter:

- Complainant lives next to the Hilo International Airport and alleged that airport maintenance staff's spraying resulted in drift of Roundup onto his property. An investigation was conducted with airport staff, and swab samples collected. Lab results indicated no detection for glyphosate.
- Complainant alleged that his neighbor was burning pesticides along with trash and ohia wood. Swab sample were taken from complainant's residence. Awaiting lab results.
- Complainant was concerned that a UHH research station was applying chemicals every night to swarming termites. The UHH research station denied applying chemicals to swarming termites. Complainant was concerned that the chemicals were drifting onto his property and affecting his drinking water. Water samples were taken from complainant's catchment tank. Awaiting lab results.
- Complainant was concerned that a private corporation was applying a glyphosate product to an irrigation ditch in Kohala. The complainant was concerned that organic farmers use water for

irrigation and that the water will eventually drain into the ocean. The private corporation's application of Round up custom to ditch banks followed all labeling directions.

- Complainant had previously filed 2 other complaints earlier in the year and was concerned with the County of Highways maintaining roadsides with roundup. Upon review it appears that the County's application of Roundup followed all label directions.

Kauai Island: Five complaints reported during this quarter:

- Complainant alleges that a company her son works for did not provide proper training to him on pesticide application, handling of tobacco plant products, or provide health insurance to its workers. Complainant was reluctant to file a formal complaint as she believes her son would be upset. Contact information for the Department of Health, HIOSH and the state Department of Labor offices were provided to the complainant. An interview was conducted with her son who denied applying pesticides or having issues with his work environment.
- Complainant claimed that while driving near an agricultural company with his car windows up, he smelled pesticide odors. The complainant said he contacted the company and they disclosed what 3 herbicides were being applied; a.i. 2, 4-D, dimethylamine salt, glyphosate and celthodim. After meeting with the complainant, a follow-up meeting was made with the agricultural company. Records showed that winds were at five miles per hour from the South-West; the highway was downwind from the application at the time that the complainant was driving by; the area sprayed was at least thirty feet above the highway where the odor was smelled by the complainant; a 150 foot buffer was kept from all fields to the middle line of the highway. No suspected violations were documented. The complainant requested and received a copy of the case jacket.
- An anonymous caller reported that state highways DOT was spraying with wind conditions blowing at 30 mph near a specified location. The inspector went out to conduct an inspection and located the State Highways truck and two applicators. The inspector's anemometer indicated the minimum average wind speed was 6 mph and occasional gusts were between 1-mph and 13mph. No suspected violations were documented.
- A complainant living in a housing project stated that he is allergic to all applications of pesticides and complained of applications being made on an Ag farm property, located approximately 240 feet behind his apartment and in the valley nearby. He also claimed that another resident and the property manager are spraying to harass and to evict him. Swab samples were collected of complainant's screen and window areas. Lab results are pending. The property manager stated that there were no recent pesticide applications on property and all tenants are kept informed of applications. No suspected violations were documented.
- A case manager filed a complaint on behalf of her elderly client living at a Hawaii Public Housing Authority – project. The elderly client with a pre-existing health condition stated that he has health issues due to pesticides being sprayed constantly by his neighbor in the complex. The complainant claims that he smells the odor constantly, day and night and there is nothing he can do about it. The complainant walked outside of his air conditioned unit to an area where he claimed the odor to be present. The inspector could not detect the presence of any odor. The neighbor was interviewed and said he does not use any pesticides, fertilizers or chemicals.